

## 5.11 Mineral Resources

### 5.11.1 Environmental Setting

The U.S. Geological Survey defines a mineral resource as a concentration of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous material in or on the earth's crust in such form and amount that economic extraction of a commodity from the concentration is currently or potentially feasible (USGS 1980). Mineral resources include oil and natural gas, as well as metallic and non-metallic deposits.

The U.S. Geological Survey's Mineral Resource Data System maps current and past producers of minerals, prospects, and occurrences of minerals. One historic mine is located within 0.25 miles of the project's TL666D corridor (USGS 2005). The Sorrento Sand Company Deposit is located between the TL666D removal project component and Interstate 15 north of Carmel Valley Road. However, most of this area is developed. No active or inactive mines, mineral occurrences, or mineral prospects are known to exist within the project area. Mines and mineral resource zones in the project vicinity are shown on Figure 5.11-1.

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, mapped mineral resource zones (MRZs) in the vicinity of the proposed project in its Special Report 153 (DOC 1982). The designated mineral resource zones in the project area are for aggregate resources, and are defined as follows (DOC 1982):

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that there is little likelihood for their presence. This zone shall be applied where well-developed lines of reasoning, based upon economic-geologic principles and adequate data, demonstrate that the likelihood for occurrence of significant mineral deposits is nil or slight.
- **MRZ-2:** Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that there is a high likelihood for their presence. This zone shall be applied to known mineral deposits or where well-developed lines of reasoning, based upon economic-geologic principles and adequate data demonstrate that the likelihood for occurrence of significant mineral deposits is high.
- **MRZ-3:** Areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other mineral resource zone. (DOC 1982)

Areas designated MRZ-2 (where mineral resources are present) are located beneath a small segment of the TL666D corridor, the Torrey Pines Fly Yard, one steel pole that would be topped, one stringing site, and one temporary footpath (Figure 5.11-1). The general plans for the cities of Del Mar and San Diego do not identify locally important mineral resources. The regional plans prepared for the North County Sub-region and the San Diego Association of Governments do not identify locally important mineral resources. The San Diego County general plan does not identify locally important mineral resources. The

City of San Diego and the San Diego County general plans identify only the MRZs shown on Figure 5.11-1 (City of San Diego 2008, San Diego County 2011).

The project area is not located in a region of active oil exploration and production. No active oil or gas wells are located within the project area, although one inactive and one plugged/abandoned well are located approximately 1.7 miles east of the center of the TL666D utility corridor (DOC 2017). In addition, none of the project components would be located within the boundaries of an oil and gas field (DOC 2001).

## 5.11.2 Regulatory Setting

### Federal

#### Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970

This act declared that the federal government policy is to encourage private enterprise in the development of a sound and stable domestic mineral industry and orderly and economic development of mineral resources, research, and reclamation methods. According to the applicable California Environmental Quality Act criteria, the proposed project may create a significant impact where it conflicts with the goals of the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970.

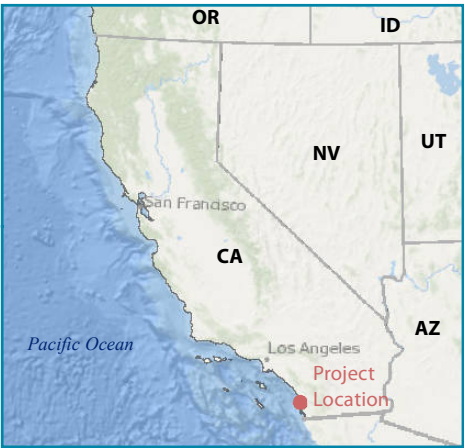
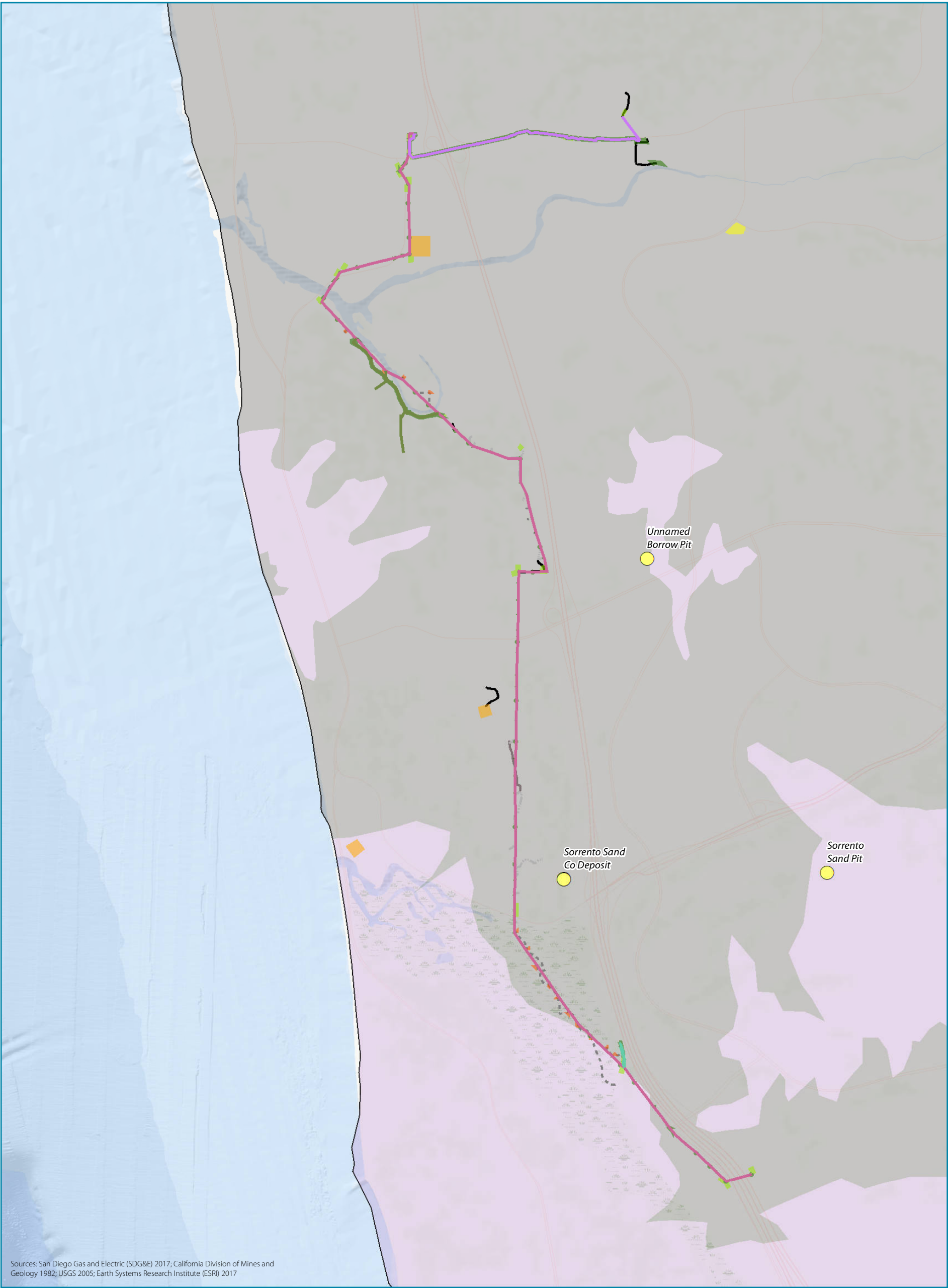
### State

#### California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act

The State Mining and Geology Board implements state policy and regulations for reclamation of mined lands and conservation of mineral resources. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (Public Resources Code Sections 2710–2796) set forth these policies in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, and requires local governments within California to regulate mining operations and to develop planning policies that balance mineral production with maintenance of environmental quality. The California Geological Survey, under the authority of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, maps mineral resource zones. The proposed project may have a significant impact if it prevents recovery of mineral resources as mapped under the authority of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.

#### California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources

Public Resources Code Section 3106 mandates the supervision of drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil wells for the purpose of preventing damage to life, health, property, and natural resources; damage to underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic use; loss of oil, gas, or reservoir energy; and damage to oil and gas deposits by infiltrating water and other causes. In addition, the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources regulates drilling, production, injection, and gas storage operations in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1. This division also maps oil and gas wells and oil and gas fields in the state. The proposed project may have a significant impact if it prevents the extraction of oil and gas.



- |                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Proposed Project Components</b> | <b>Existing Access Road</b>  |
| C510 Conversion                    | Existing Footpath            |
| C738 Conversion                    | Existing Footpath/ATV Access |
| TL666D Removal                     | Temporary Footpath           |
| TL674A Reconfiguration             | Mine Locations               |
| Drop Zone                          | Mineral Resource Zone        |
| Fly Yard                           | MRZ-2                        |
| Staging Yard                       | MRZ-3                        |
| Stringing Site                     |                              |
| Work Area                          |                              |

**Figure 5.11-1**  
**Mines and Mineral**  
**Resource Zones in the**  
**Proposed Project Vicinity**  
**TL 674A Reconfiguration**  
**and TL666D Removal**  
**San Diego County, California**

March 2018

0 0.25 0.5 Miles  
0 0.5 1 Kilometers

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### 5.11.3 Environmental Impacts and Assessment

#### Applicant-Proposed Measures

The applicant has not incorporated applicant-proposed measures into the proposed project to specifically minimize or avoid impacts on mineral resources.

#### Significance Criteria

Table 5.11-1 includes the significance criteria from Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines' mineral resources section to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Table 5.11-1 Mineral Resources Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***a. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?***

The Torrey Pines Fly Yard, one temporary footpath, one steel pole that would be topped, one stringing site, and a small segment on the TL666D utility corridor are located in areas that the state geologist has designated MRZ-2, meaning there is a high likelihood that mineral resources may be present. The fly yard and footpath are temporary facilities, and no construction of permanent facilities would occur in any area designated as MRZ-2. The project's operation and maintenance activities would not require, preclude, or result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource; thus, there would be no impact under this criterion.

**Significance: No Impact**

***b. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?***

The relevant planning documents for the City of San Diego and Del Mar do not identify locally important mineral resource recovery sites that would be affected by implementing the proposed project. Thus, no impact would occur under this criterion.

**Significance: No Impact**

## References

- California Department of Conservation (DOC). 1982. Division of Mines and Geology. Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego Production-Consumption Region, Special Report 153. <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed February 5, 2018.
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